

City of Rockville Environment Commission

Sustainable Development and Energy Committee (SDEC)

Meeting Minutes

Thursday July 28, 2011

Diamondback Terrapin Room, City Hall

7:00 pm

1. Welcome / Agenda Review

- In attendance: Rotraut Bockstahler, Devinie Rukshani Lye, John Becker, Herb Winkler, Lea Rosenbohm, Ming Hu, Clark Reed (via phone) and staff liaison Erica Shingara.

2. Environment Commission Report

- The Environment Commission will tour the Montgomery County Transfer Center on August 9 at 4 p.m. SDEC members should email Mark Charles if they would like to attend.
- New appointments to the Environment Commission are anticipated at the August 15 Mayor and Council meeting
- The Environment Commission will hold a strategic planning retreat on October 15.

3. Environmental Management Division Report

- Overview of the Environmental Management Division, including stormwater, refuse and recycling, green building and energy initiatives.
- The Mayor and Council approved amendments to the purchasing ordinance that will allow for environmentally preferable purchasing. Staff will be developing guidance and training materials.
- The College Garden Park Stormwater Management Project received a 2011 Smart, Green and Growing Sustainable Award for Infrastructure/Innovation in Stormwater Management by the Maryland Department of the Environment.
- Working with a video production company to develop how-to videos for rain barrels and recycling to be posted on the web. If these are successful, we can explore other uses.
- Hired a new Sediment and Erosion Control Inspector.

4. SDEC Strategic Planning

- Reviewed and commented on the Environment Commission's annual report on accomplishments and goals.
- Brainstormed potential SDEC goals and projects:
 - Educate homeowners on solar energy. Including technology, installation feasibility, costs, financing, and incentives. Explore education opportunities in public displays, brochures, the web, etc.
 - Promote energy efficiency and water conservation; including methods and incentives.
 - Promote Rockville buildings that are sustainable. Create a Rockville Green Map that identifies LEED and Energy Star buildings.

- Promote sustainable landscaping (include proper watering, selection of natives, etc.)
 - In the next round of building code updates, consider allowing Energy Star Certified to serve as an optional path.
 - Consider having a contest (similar to EPA's Battle of the Buildings) to see what building can save the most electricity.
 - Consider a requirement for energy benchmarking and reporting.
 - Evaluate buildings and criteria for Environmental Awards.
 - Continue to provide guidance on the High Performance Building Tax Credit
 - Consider participating in the Sustainable Maryland Certified program (<http://www.sustainablemaryland.com/>)
 - Provide support for the update of the Environment Element of the Comprehensive Master Plan. The update will address elements of the built environment such as green building, energy, greenhouse gas emissions, and sustainability.
- The Committee selected Clark Reed to serve as chair, with the assistance of John Becker.
 - The Committee has moved the routine meetings to the third Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be on August 16, 2011.

5. High Performance Building Tax Credit

- Funds for a tax credit were not included in the FY2012 budget. However, the Chamber suggested adopting a program this year to allow businesses time to start the LEED-EB certification process. Funds could then be allocated in FY2013.
- EMD is drafting a tax credit program that will be sent to the SDEC for review.

6. Member News / Announcements / Upcoming Events

- Rockville will be hosting a free Residential Home Energy Audit Seminar, September 21, 2011 at 7 p.m. at Croydon Creek Nature Center
- The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments will host a Solar Workshop in October: "Getting Started with Solar in the Metropolitan Washington Region"
- Montgomery County will launch a new residential rebate program in August that will provide incentives for comprehensive home energy improvements using the Maryland Home Performance with ENERGY STAR program. (<http://www.mcenergyfunding.com/>)
- Herb Winkler described the City's bike initiatives and their link to sustainability. He also indicated that there are opportunities for group discounts on home solar installations.
- MML and the University of Maryland are offering a "Green Group" training to support the Sustainable Maryland Certified program on Saturday, September 24 from 1-4 p.m. Members interested in participating may contact Erica Shingara.

7. Wrap-up and Adjourn

The next SDEC meeting will be on Tuesday, August 16, 2010 at the Rockville City Hall. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 pm.